

Contact: Shannon O'Brien 202-225-2671

*Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.*

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted to pass H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The bill is expected to be debated on the House floor in the near future.

WRDA authorizes \$14 billion for water resources studies and construction projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers oversees projects such as the creation and maintenance of navigable channels, ecosystem restoration, municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, and disaster relief and recovery.

WRDA has not been authorized since 2000, leaving necessary maintenance and construction projects unfunded. Last year, the House and Senate both passed versions of a WRDA bill, but differences between the chambers were not resolved before the end of the 109th Congress.

**"I am committed to authorizing WRDA in this new Congress to ensure essential projects receive the funding that is far overdue," Carnahan said. "Projects included in WRDA are vital for Missouri, particularly in my district. Every part of my district is touched by a river, including the Mississippi, the Meramec, the Missouri and the Big River. My district is also affected by the confluence of the Missouri, Illinois and Mississippi Rivers just north of the St. Louis area."**

WRDA contains projects directly affecting areas of Missouri, including the authorization of \$35 million for combined sewer overflow elimination in St. Louis City and County, the improvement of the Mississippi River flood wall, flood control of River Des Peres, and flood control in Festus and Crystal City.

**"As a member of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I have fought on behalf of my constituents to secure our fair share of funding, and am proud that WRDA contains projects imperative to my district," Carnahan said.**